

Merck & Co., Inc.
Patent Department
P.O. Box 2000, RY60-30
Rahway, New Jersey 07065-0907

Facsimile Transmission**DATE: December 6, 2002****TO: US Patent & Trademark Office****RE: 20146P****FROM: Alysia A. Finnegan**

Telephone No. (732) 594-2583

Fax Number: (732) 594-2250

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U.S.S.N: 09/581,894

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OFFICIALPATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	Fong <i>et al.</i>		
Serial No.:	09/581,894	Case No.:	20146P
Filed:	August 21, 2000		
For:	C-TERMINAL REGION OF AGOUTI-RELATED TRANSCRIPT (ART) PROTEIN		

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GROUP 1600Art Unit:
1646Examiner:
Kemmerer, E.The Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231COMMUNICATION

Sir:

This communication is in-reference to the outstanding Office Action mailed August 14, 2002, in the above-identified application, having a THREE (3) month period for response which expired November 14, 2002.

Further to the Examiner's request, attached is a 1449A (Information Disclosure Statement) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) for consideration by the Examiner. Copies of the references are being mailed concurrently herewith. Please deduct the required fee for this submission from Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

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An Associate Power of Attorney, naming Alysia Finnegan (Reg. No. 48,878), is also attached.

Respectfully submitted,

By


Alysia Finnegan

Reg. No.: 48,878

Attorney for Applicants

MERCK & CO., INC.

P.O. Box 2000

Rahway, NJ 07065-0907

(732) 594-2583

Date: December 6, 2002